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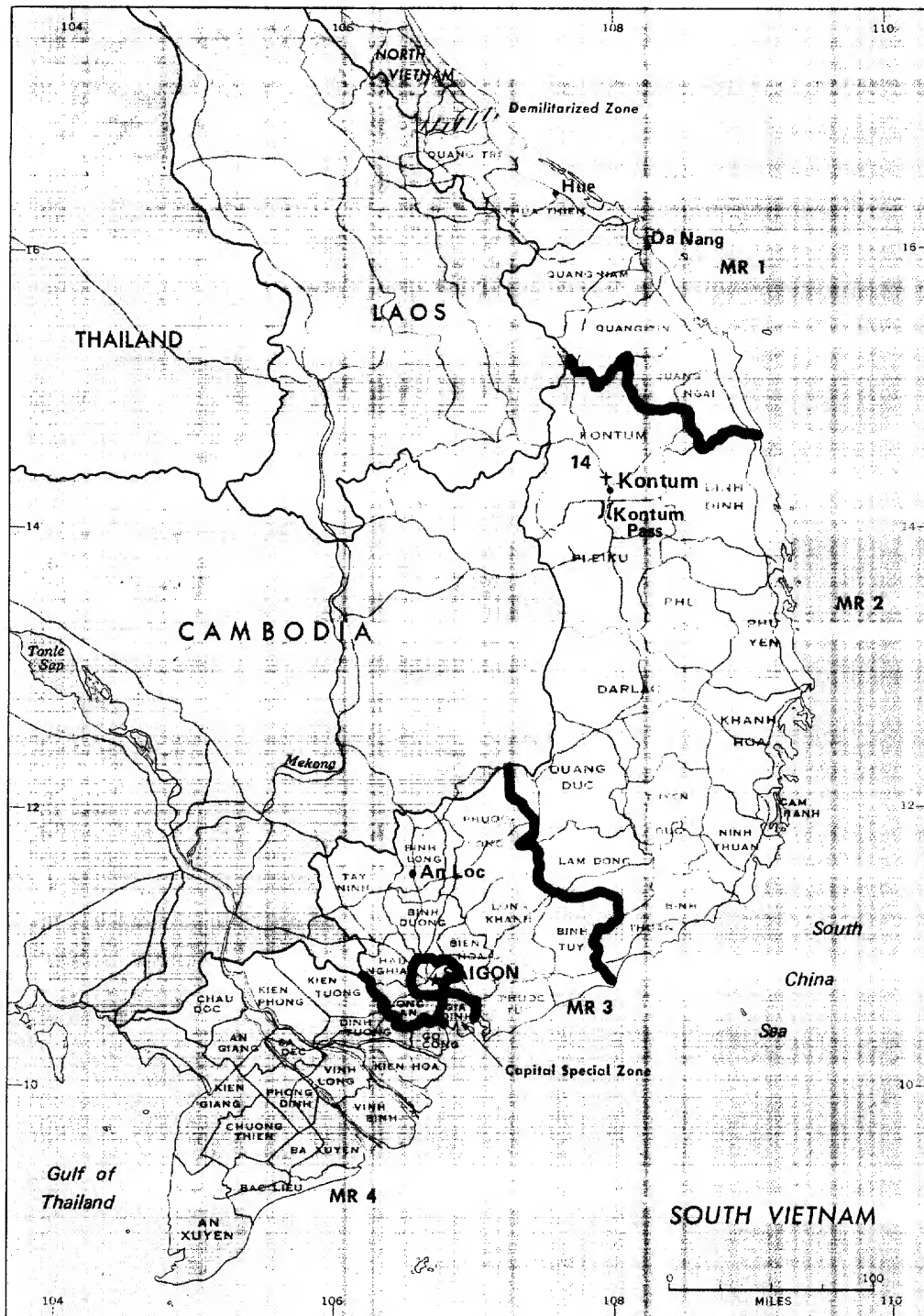
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VIETNAM: Fighting was heavy around the provincial capital of Kontum over the weekend.

The North Vietnamese intensified their attacks on Saturday, and enemy troops controlled most of the eastern third of Kontum City, including part of the airfield, for more than a day. The South Vietnamese military headquarters was heavily shelled, and the South Vietnamese lost much of their ammunition when the main dump was blown up. Enemy forces attacking Kontum from the northwest bypassed and isolated a South Vietnamese base, forcing the defending regiment to abandon its position and to withdraw under fire toward the city itself. Government forces in the city began counterattacking on Sunday, and late reports indicate the South Vietnamese have cleared out a few enemy pockets; however, Communist units still hold territory in the northern and eastern portions of the city. The airfield remains closed, but supplies are being air-dropped and brought into the city by helicopter. South of Kontum, government forces have been unable to reopen Route 14 through Kontum Pass for overland resupply.

In other fighting, the North Vietnamese put heavy pressure on two South Vietnamese Ranger battalions manning outposts north of Hue on Saturday. The two Ranger units suffered heavy casualties and withdrew, but South Vietnamese Marines moved in and halted the enemy advance. Action elsewhere in Military Region 1 was light; enemy units concentrated on moving supplies into forward areas near Hue and prepared for shelling attacks against Da Nang.

In Military Region 3 the fighting was relatively light over the weekend. In the An Loc area, enemy forces continued to harass the South Vietnamese 21st Division and prevented it from reaching the town. In Phuoc Tuy Province, elements of two Communist regiments attacked two district towns, apparently in an effort to isolate the province by blocking the main road linking it to Saigon. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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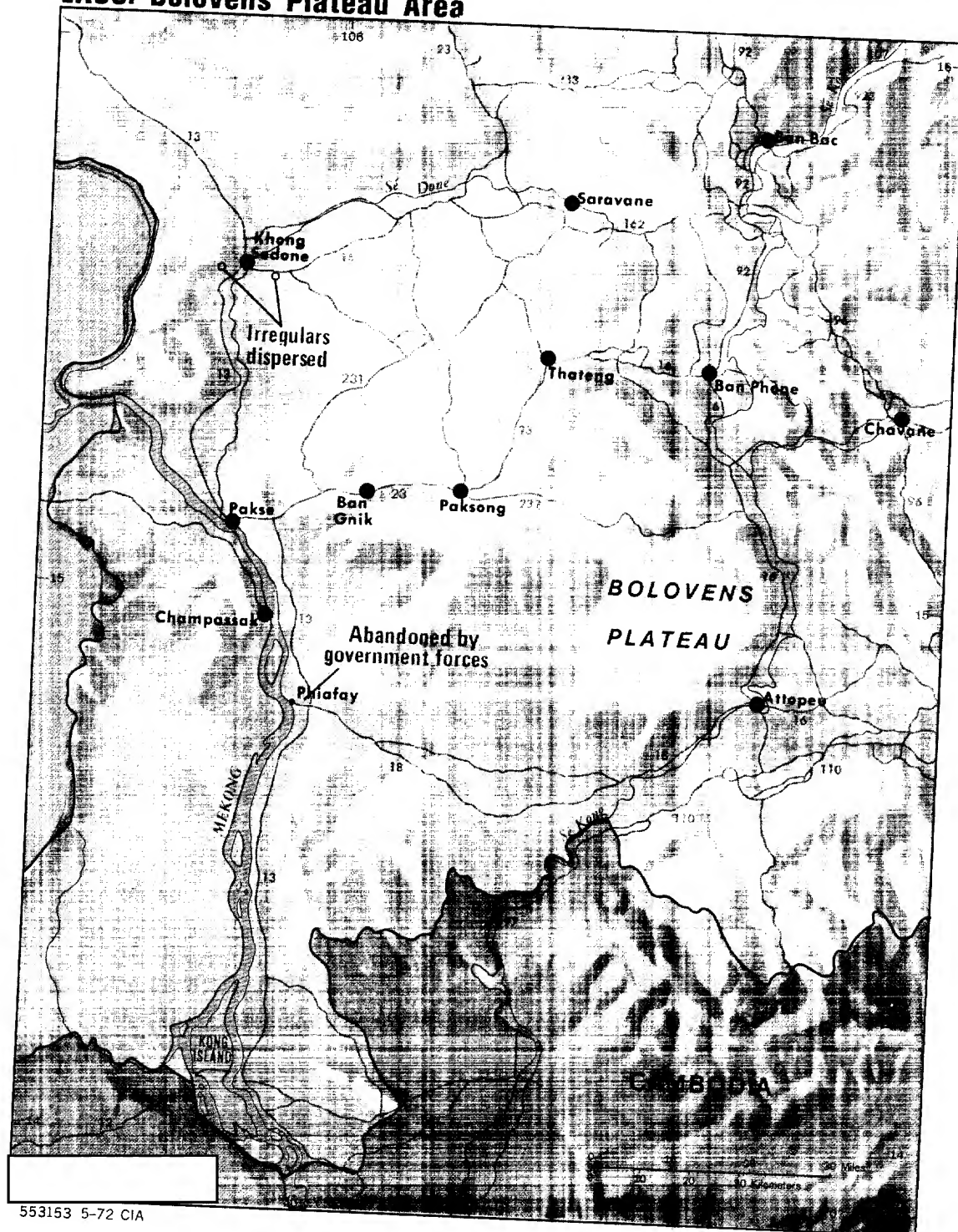
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LAOS: Bolovens Plateau Area



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- Government-held location
- Communist-held location

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LAOS: Communist forces have dispersed government units attempting to retake Khong Sedone, a provincial capital 30 miles north of Pakse.

Two North Vietnamese battalions on 28 May encircled three understrength battalions moving toward Khong Sedone from the east. By the end of the day the government commander could account for less than half of his 660 men. An attempt by a fourth battalion to take the mountain just west of the town was also thwarted by North Vietnamese troops.

The Communists may be planning to turn on the heel farther south, near Pakse City. A recent rallier claims that five infantry battalions plus some artillery and armor units will soon attack the Lao Army units at the junction of Routes 23 and 231. Meanwhile, to the south, a government garrison has abandoned Phiafay town after an alleged Pathet Lao attack.

In north Laos, Vang Pao's irregulars are beginning to make some progress in their effort to recapture the hills southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Advance elements of an irregular task force have moved to within three miles of Phou Pha Sai, a strategic highpoint overlooking the southern Plaine. Units from another task force have moved from Sam Thong and occupied hills four and five miles to the east.

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USSR: An editorial on SALT in yesterday's Pravda says that the agreements signed in Moscow will strengthen the Soviet Union and raise the standard of living of the people.

The editorial, the first authoritative Soviet commentary on the Summit, claims support at home and in other Communist countries for the agreements signed during President Nixon's visit, and it warns that they must be implemented effectively. It also calls for continued struggle against "aggressive imperialist forces" and insists that the agreements with the US do not mean that the CPSU is retreating from its ideological principles or from its commitments to its allies. The editorial concludes by observing that, with good will, new and mutually acceptable arms control agreements can be reached. Moreover, Pravda's roundup of world press comments plays back favorable remarks on the significance of the SALT agreements, including Ambassador Smith's comment that they mark a "good beginning."

Meanwhile, the Soviet press has yet to publish some parts of President Nixon's TV address. Among the passages omitted were the President's challenge to compete in producing better lives for the Soviet and American people; his warning that there would be only losers in an unchecked arms race; and his references to reduction in US armed forces, to the right of each nation to choose its own political system, and to US determination to defend its liberty.

All of these topics are sensitive in the USSR. Both domestic and foreign policy considerations probably prompted the Soviet authorities to omit other passages, such as the President's discussion of the responsibilities of great powers vis-a-vis smaller nations.

It is noteworthy that during the talks in Moscow the Soviet media only reiterated Soviet support for the Vietnamese cause and promised that no secret deals were in the making.

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URUGUAY: Security operations against the MLN/Tupamaros may have permanently damaged the terrorist organization.

The military forces have scored an important psychological victory over the Tupamaros by freeing two prisoners the Tupamaros had held captive for more than a year. This is the first time that the government has secured the release of kidnap victims and constitutes a major setback for the terrorists, who have frequently boasted of their ability to hold prisoners indefinitely. Government forces have also captured numerous terrorists [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and have continued to seize valuable Tupamaro assets.

The Tupamaros have publicly admitted their current difficulties, but promise to continue their struggle against the state and may attempt an operation to underscore their determination. Despite this reaffirmation, it appears that the morale of the terrorists has suffered as a result of the military's unprecedented successes. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

CHILE: An election to choose leaders of the national labor confederation will be held today and tomorrow. The several hundred thousand members of the confederation are being wooed by candidates from all political parties. The Communists now control the confederation, but expect to be hard pressed by President Allende's Socialists. Despite infighting, the two parties together are expected to control a majority of the ballots. The opposition Christian Democrats have a strong labor following and could get up to 25 percent. The extremist Movement of the Revolutionary Left, which is running candidates for the first time, is a potentially upsetting factor. The elections are important to the government as proof of its claim that the working class overwhelmingly supports its policies, and the Popular Unity parties are on the spot to deliver the votes. With the democratic "one worker - one vote" system being used for the first time, however, the outcome is far from certain. [REDACTED]

* * * *

UNITED KINGDOM - EC: The British Government may soon announce its nomination of two high political figures to fill positions on the EC Commission, which will be reconstituted next January. Sources of the US Embassy in London have said an individual of ministerial rank in the Labor Party--probably George Thomson--has accepted the government's offer. The other post almost certainly will be filled by Christopher Soames, now ambassador to France. By selecting these candidates, the government hopes both to associate the opposition Labor Party with Britain's new role in the Community and to demonstrate the government's commitment to effective EC institutions. Opinion in the Community has long held that London's choice of men of political stature would compel Paris to appoint men of similar caliber, despite France's persistent efforts to downgrade the Commission to a mere secretariat. [REDACTED]

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MALAGASY REPUBLIC: General Ramanantsoa has finally formed a new government of military officers and civilian technicians. The general retains the key defense, armed forces, and planning portfolios, and a navy captain will serve as foreign minister. Tsiranana remains president, at least in name. Ramanantsoa had earlier appointed the commander of the national gendarmerie as minister of interior. Most of the military and gendarmerie officers who have been appointed the new chiefs of Madagascar's six provinces are natives of their areas. Ramanantsoa clearly intends by his appointments to show his firm intention to restore public order and damp down Madagascar's traditional ethnic rivalries.

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